

2010 Basic Needs Funding Application

APPLICATION IS BY INVITATION ONLY

Contact Information

Organization Name: St Vincent de Paul Society of Lane County, Inc.

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 24608

City/State: Eugene, OR

Zip: 97402

Contact Name: William Wise

Title: Director, First Place Family Development Ctr.

Phone: 541-514-1435

Email: wwise@svdp.us

Website: svdp.us

Fax # 541-485-1731

Organizational Information

Mission Statement: We assist the poor and those in need of consolation, seeking out and utilizing every resource. Being mindful of the sanctity and dignity of all, any charitable work that advances those goals is within the mission of St. Vincent de Paul.

No. of Employees: 330 FTE: 280

No. of Volunteers (annually)/ Volunteer Hours (annually) 4,499 / 23,598

Name of Executive Director: Terrence R. McDonald

Name of Board President: Louise "Molly" Westling

Term Ending Date: September 2011

Number of members on Board of Directors: 15

Total Agency Budget: \$ 16,516,221 Net Income Fiscal Year End: September 30, 2010

Geographic Service Lane County, Oregon

Unduplicated Lane County Residents Served Last Year: Over 84,500 total for all programs

Has your organization been previously funded by UWLC? No Yes, Year(s) 1995 – 2010

Proposed Service(s): Name of Proposed Services: First Place Family Development Center

Basic Needs Services: (check primary use of funds)

Food (hunger relief and nutrition)

Shelter (emergency housing and homelessness intervention)

Healthcare (emergency and basic health services)

Safety (domestic violence and child abuse intervention)

Access to Basic Needs (information & referral; transportation; advocacy)

Geographic Service Area within Lane County

Eugene, Springfield & Surrounding Area

Eugene, Springfield & Surrounding Area

Eugene, Springfield & Surrounding Area

Eugene, Springfield & Surrounding Area

Annual Funds Requested: \$ 45,000

Note: Prints as 5 pages plus cover page on a Macintosh using 12pt. Times New Roman font

1. Proposed Services Summary:

First Place Family Development Center offers crucial assistance in meeting the basic needs of low-income families with children who are in transition due to homelessness, job loss, health issues, or other critical problems in a way that quiets their fears around survival so they can focus on gaining income and adequate housing in order to again become productive, contributing members of the community. We do this by providing a warm and welcoming non-judgmental environment and a staff that relates to each client as an individual who has within them the ability to move to a higher level of functioning if given appropriate encouragement and support.

First Place serves families through **four innovative programs**, the Day Center, Kids Center, Interfaith Night Shelter Program, and the Overnight Parking Program.

The **Day Center** is open from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM every day of the year. We offer our clients a full complement of services including toiletries, showers, free laundry, mail and phone services, and use of the Internet, including teaching basic computer skills. Using food available at the Center, families can prepare and eat their meals after their own custom and preferences. Clothing vouchers are available monthly to allow our homeless families to get clothing appropriate to the seasons. Case management, parenting help, and money management services are available to any day client who is interested. In 2009, 462 families (1,580 individuals including 852 children) used the Day Center for a total of 25,700 person-days. Free laundry alone provides a significant financial boon for many families, both homeless and housed. We also receive money from donors specifically for homeless prevention or to help people get back into housing. One of the things that distinguishes our program is our dedication to working from a systems perspective and concentrating as much as possible on root causes rather than just focusing on resolving the resultant symptoms.

The **Kids Center** is a therapeutically-oriented preschool helping homeless and at-risk children ages 3 through 5 to develop strong self-management skills, self-care skills, social/emotional skills and basic literacy proficiency. Our goal is to prepare our children to be “kindergarten ready”, i.e., demonstrating basic literacy proficiency and adequate social/emotional development. Helping children enter kindergarten “ready to learn” is the primary focus of First Place Kids Center. We want them to be successful in their kindergarten classrooms. Our professionally educated staff are well prepared to assist the children we serve in entering kindergarten with the skills in place needed to succeed. The Kids Center is open Monday-Friday from 7:30 AM to 5:30 PM, allowing parents to work or attend school full-time. In 2009, the Kids Center provided 17,839 hours of care to children who were homeless or at-risk.

The **Interfaith Night Shelter Program**, in cooperation with over 30 local faith communities, provides nighttime shelter, meals, and support for up to 10 families at a time during the school year. All participants must be involved in case management, attend the Parenting Chat, and be actively working to achieve greater self-sufficiency. The Night Shelter Coordinator is the Case Manager for the participants and also assists with the Parent Chat. He works from 2:00 – 10:00 PM and has the advantage of being with the families at critical times such as meals and bedtime.

Participants who want to enter the program are originally brought in for a 30-day evaluation period to determine if the program’s services are appropriate to their ability to make the necessary commitment. Those who are willing to commit to the program are welcome to stay in the program until they graduate to a more stable situation. In 2009, the Interfaith Night Shelter Program provided 55 families a total of 6,599 person-nights of shelter.

The **Overnight Parking Program**, in cooperation with the cities of Eugene and Springfield, provides legal and safe parking places for families who have a vehicle adequate for them to stay in while getting back on their feet. All participants must also be involved in case management and actively working to achieve greater self-sufficiency.

During 2009, the Overnight Parking Program provided 27 families with 8,594 person-nights of shelter. The two overnight programs provided a total of 15,193 person-nights of shelter

2. Target Population:

All of our families are either homeless or at great risk of becoming homeless and have a child under the age of 18 in their care. All are low-income. Of the 462 families served during calendar year 2009, all were below 250% FPL (*Federal Poverty Level*), 98% were below 100% FPL, 75% were below 50% FPL and 56% were below 30% FPL. Female heads of household made up 36% of the families served.

3. Need:

The biggest negative impact on our clients last year was the loss of jobs, which pushed Lane County's unemployment rate to its highest level in 26 years, more than double the previous year (from 6.3% to 12.8%). Since we primarily serve very low-income families, a group that is often the first to be laid off and the last to be rehired, even clients with excellent skills have had difficulty finding new work. All of the problems noted in United Way's 2009 Community Assessment of Needs for Lane County are greatly magnified in our clients because of the combination of extremely low income, lack of education and training, lack of supportive family and/or community connections, and the long-term effects of poverty. None of our clients have incomes equivalent to Lane County's Self-Sufficiency Standard of \$32,445 for a family of three and 75% are living on less than 28% of that amount (\$9,155.)

We serve a racially and ethnically mixed population with 18% of our clients identifying themselves as non-white compared to 8.3% for Lane Co. as a whole. 15% of our clients identify themselves as Hispanic versus 6.4% for Lane Co. The percentage of Hispanic clients has continued to increase since we hired a bilingual Intake, Information & Referral staff person.

4. Service Goals:

Outputs: Provide Day Center services to 400-500 families. Provide Night Shelter services to a minimum of 40 families. Provide Overnight Parking Program services to at least 25 families. Provide at least 30 homeless/at-risk children with preschool services. Make available to all families our full range of services including Parent Chat and Case Management.

Outcomes: All families entering the Center receive case management services to create a plan that identifies needs, barriers, and appropriate services. One of the tools used is a Basic Needs Assessment for Families. It provides a snapshot of the client's assessment of their current situation. All families using the Day Center will be asked to complete another assessment each quarter and families in the overnight shelter programs will be asked to do so monthly. The results will be entered into a database that will allow us to track the success of our program over time and point out areas where we need to improve. The results will be made available to United Way. It is our prediction that we will see measurable improvement in two or more areas in at least 65% of those families participating in case management.

We will also track and report on: Level of Savings, rate of completion of outside programs like Second Chance Renters Rehab and Lifeline, changes in amount of income, changes in housing status and percent of families moving from the evaluation stage of the Interfaith Night Shelter Program into its ongoing phase.

We will set aside \$1,000 of the United Way Basic Needs grant to offer a \$50 grocery gift card to the first 20 Night Shelter participants who return and fill-out an updated assessment form three months after graduating into a more stable living situation. It is our prediction that at least 60% will have maintained or increased their level of self-sufficiency.

5. Community Return on Investment:

Cost-effectiveness: Two of our most cost-effective programs are the Interfaith Night Shelter Program and the Overnight Parking Program. Through the efforts of over 2,000 volunteers, giving thousands of hours of service, the Night Shelter Program was able to provide 6,599 person nights of shelter, **including meals** for \$64,470 (\$9.77 per person-night.) Our Overnight Parking Program provided 8,597 person-nights for \$40,775 (\$4.74 per person-night.)

Our Day Center is open 7 days a week, 365 days a year. In conjunction with our Day Center, Night Shelter operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week throughout the school year. The Kids Center is open 10 hours a day M-F. We operate all of our programs with a total staff of 10.7 FTE, including our Custodian.

Leveraging Other Financial Investments: By focusing on providing a coordinated systems approach to every person who seeks our services, each separate program we administer receives the benefit of our full range of support and interventions. A prime example is the City of Eugene's Overnight Parking Program. The City funds some staff time, portable toilets, trash pickup, and the screening of applicants for that service. Funds from other diverse sources also make available weekly case management, childcare, parenting help, and the rest of our total complement of services. This provides our Overnight Parking clients with a greater chance of sustained success through the synergy of our combined programs.

Avoiding Future Problems: By providing our preschoolers with cutting-edge training in social/emotional skills and basic literacy and ensuring that all children in the Center are enrolled in and attending school within three days of beginning services, we increase the likelihood that many of our children will be in a better position to break out of poverty than their parents. The cost over time of children who are not ready to enter school or who do not stay in school is incalculable.

By helping families identify and overcome barriers to stable housing and sustained employment, people who are currently a drain on community resources become tax-paying and supportive community members. (Some of our former clients even return as volunteers.)

Our ongoing efforts to implement what we are learning from Drs. Donna Beegle and Ruby K. Payne about helping people raised in multigenerational poverty break the cycle and become established members of the working class has resulted in improvements in the way we function at First Place. Aiding our clients in becoming aware of the strategies that have helped them survive while in poverty and helping them discover how these same strategies have gotten in the way of attaining stable income and housing embodies prevention of the highest order. Due to the unique opportunity we have to be in contact with our Night Shelter clients throughout their daily life, we often become aware of gaps in knowledge concerning the "unspoken rules of the Middle Class" and can pass on information on how to better succeed in daily life, especially in the areas of housing and employment.

Using donated funds, we are able to help some of the families get into or remain in housing. By supporting this service through teaching budgeting and saving, we help them avoid becoming homeless in the future.

Our Agency's Work and the Effectiveness of the Human Services Network

We work to provide comprehensive services to the people we are privileged to serve. By treating each and every person with dignity and respect we believe that our interaction will set the tone for their experience with the entire human service network in our community. Our staff works to be knowledgeable about the resources of our area so that we can give people looking for assistance the information they want and need. From the first phone call that determines whether someone is eligible for our services we try to meet the need of the person in some way. Even if it is just taking the time to talk with them so that we can make a good referral to another agency, we want everyone we speak with to feel as though they have received something useful as a result of contacting us.

Our Center's Director serves as a liaison between the Human Services Network and the Human Services Commission /Community Action Advisory Board and is actively engaged in United Way's Opportunity Conference Steering Committee. Both the Center Director and Client Services Supervisor teach classes for other community groups and agencies.

First Place is a popular tour venue for United Way's Loaned Executives and serves a model for compassionate and comprehensive services delivery.

6. Organizational Capacity

Staff: The Center Director has over 45 years of human services experience including over 20 years as a private practice counselor and teacher in an institute that trains counselors. His administrative experience includes Assistant Director of a 300 staff person Public Social Services Office, Director of a Division of Family Services of Long Beach, California and Director of Comprehensive Health Planning for two counties in Washington State. The Client Services Supervisor also has over 20 years as a counselor in private practice and previously had her own bookkeeping business. Our Day Center Case Manager has her Masters Degree from the University of Oregon and our Night Shelter Coordinator/Case Manager has over 12 years of social services experience in Lane County. Our Preschool Director and both Teachers have their Masters Degrees in Early Intervention/ Early Childhood Special Education and full Oregon Teaching Credentials.

Funding Streams: We have diverse funding sources including the Human Services Commission, United Way, FEMA, Head Start, the University of Oregon, Early Childhood CARES, various grants, and strong financial support from the community, receiving \$196,954 in donations last year.

Governance: By being a program of St. Vincent de Paul of Lane County, Inc. we share in the strength of their Board, Accounting Department, Community Relations staff, and administrative expertise. First Place also has its own Advisory Board that oversees operations, provides support, and reports to the Executive Board.

7. Goal Alignment:

Our strongest alignment is with **Education**. Our cutting-edge preschool, First Place Kids Center, in collaboration with Head Start, Early Childhood CARES and the University of Oregon, are working together in refining a best practices model for working with kids whose families are homeless and under high stress. Our Parent Chat is designed to present to parents effective and evidence based practices for working with children in a format compatible with the "oral culture" represented by most of our clients.

We also address issues of **Income** in both the Interfaith Night Shelter and the Overnight Parking Program. Participants in these Programs are required to work with a Case Manager to address budgeting and savings. Clients not in the overnight programs can and do receive this same type of assistance in dealing with the financial aspect of their life.

A foundation of **Health** is being able to remain housed and employed. While we don't provide direct health services, it is well known that stress has an enormous impact on health through suppression of the immune system, the release of damaging hormones, and the triggering of a wide range of emotional and physical symptoms. We also regularly refer people to local physical and mental health centers.

The reason for the existence of First Place is to care for the children. Children's current and future health and wellbeing are put at risk when their parents are living under the extreme stresses that usually bring people to First Place. Through meeting basic survival needs, helping with effective parenting skills, and supporting families in overcoming the barriers in their path, we work to reduce the daily stresses faced by the parents at the Center and thereby reducing the risk of injury to their children.

8. Collaborations

In order to provide as seamless a safety net as possible, we work closely with a number of other agencies that also serve homeless and at-risk families, including Catholic Community Services, Shelter Care, the Relief Nursery, and the Eugene Mission. We especially value our connection with Womenspace and partner with them in their Centerpoint Grant Project. First Place serves a significant number of domestic violence survivors and sometimes provides shelter when Womenspace's facility is full.

Our services are augmented through our involvement with other St. Vincent de Paul programs including Connections Transitional Housing, Self-Sufficiency Vocational Services, Second Chance Renters Rehab, the housing programs LIFT & Vet LIFT, and Property Management. In addition to our own work with clients around budgeting and money management, we refer people to OUR Credit Union's Lifeline class.

9. Alignment of Services with Values

Integrity St. Vincent de Paul Society of Lane County in general and First Place Family Development Center in particular are known for frugality and getting the most from funds provided by various community sources and donors. During the last several years First Place has worked to embody the highest professional standards and efforts to be a model of compassionate and effective client services.

Impact First Place's impact on people's lives takes three basic forms. First, we see to it that families' basic needs are met, including sanitation, food, and shelter. Second, we support families in learning more effective approaches to parenting, money management, and other life skills. Third, we work to create relationships that encourage and support people in their attempts to try new behaviors and to improve their own and their children's lives.

Volunteerism Our key program, the Interfaith Night Shelter Program, would not exist without the active involvement of thousands of volunteers each year. Our Kids Center provides its level of care through many volunteers from the University and the community at large. (Most days at Circle, there is one lap per child!) **The unique thing about our volunteers is that most of them have real face to face contact with our families and learn that "the homeless" are just "one of us."** In 2009, 90 volunteers logged over 800 hours of service at the Day Center; our Interfaith Night Shelter Program had 2,284 volunteers who provided 11,661 hours; and the Kids Center's 333 volunteers logged 4,130 hours of service.

Diversity/Inclusiveness As previously noted, our clients ethnic and racial mix exceeds Lane County averages. Family units are self-defined and all family members are able to be together in the shelter. We welcome all family configurations including extended families and LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered) parents. Our Intake, Information and Referral person is bilingual/bicultural and has actively reached out to the community to welcome our Latino neighbors.

Community Leadership St. Vincent de Paul Society of Lane County and its First Place Family Development Center have provided creative "out of the box" programs which improve peoples' lives. These include the Interfaith Night Shelter Program, the Overnight Parking Program, Second Chance Renters Rehab, and First Place Kids Center to name a few. We believe that First Place was the one of the first agencies in Lane County to become aware of the specific issues and barriers created by multigenerational poverty and to revise our approaches and policies to maximize effectiveness with that population. First Place staff is active in the community, speaking and teaching in University classrooms and civic organizations. It is the stated goal of First Place and our Kids Center to develop and create more effective models for serving families and children under stress and to freely share those models with others.

Basic Needs Application

Proposed Services BUDGET

(fill in the green cells)

Agency Name:

St. Vincent de Paul of Lane County, Inc.

Proposed Services:

First Place Family Development Center

	Prior 12 Months	Future 12 Months
REVENUE/SUPPORT		
United Way Funding/Request (do NOT include Donor Designations)	\$37,979.00	\$45,000.00
Public Support: Contributions/Fundraising Events (include Donor Designations)	\$196,954.00	\$163,026.00
Government Funding	\$228,290.00	\$219,545.00
Foundation/Corporation/Other Grants or Major Gifts	\$12,590.00	\$12,590.00
Program Service Fees or Membership Dues	\$138,829.00	\$175,000.00
Other Revenue	\$1,458.00	\$2,000.00
Total Revenue	\$616,100.00	\$617,161.00
	Estimated	Actual
EXPENSES		
Personnel Related	\$356,447.00	\$369,959.00
Client Assistance	\$35,704.00	\$4,953.00
Other Direct Program Expenses	\$181,700.00	\$200,000.00
Administrative Overhead	\$42,249.00	\$42,249.00
Total Expenses	\$616,100.00	\$617,161.00
NET (should be zero)	\$0.00	\$0.00

What percent of your agency budget do these proposed services represent?	4%	4%
What percent of your agency revenue is the United Way request? *Actual = .27	0%	0%
Number of employee FTE's (full-time equivalents) in proposed services?	10.70	10.70
Percentage United Way request to overall proposed services revenue	6%	7%
Administrative overhead percentage applied to proposed services	7%	7%

Completed by:

William Wise